

### “GIT’R DONE”

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank Texans that are helping our neighbors from across the Sabine River in Louisiana. The amazing hurricane relief efforts being organized in the State of Texas are a model for compassion, concern, and competence. The city of Houston, following the leadership of Mayor Bill White, is housing over 40,000 individuals from New Orleans. The Houston Astrodome has been opened up under the supervision of Harris County Judge Robert Echols and is housing close to 20,000 people. Next door in Jefferson County under the direction of Judge Carl Griffith, they are housing more than 1,800 people in their county complex. Altogether close to a quarter of a million displaced persons from Louisiana are being taken care of by Texas.

Mr. Speaker, there are those who have done nothing in this disaster except criticize and complain. I instead rise to praise and encourage. I would like to thank Mayor White, Judge Echols, Judge Griffith, and the thousands of volunteers across the State of Texas for showing us what character and compassion are all about. I know they will continue to “git’r done.”

### DEALING WITH NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE FUTURE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we all reel from the devastation of Katrina, what is surprising is that so many claim to have been surprised by an event both predictable and inevitable.

This is the moment when the Nation’s attention is trained upon not just this tragedy but what we must do to prevent future unnecessary suffering and loss. Today with a majority of Americans at risk from natural disasters, this is more important than ever for us to get the job done right.

Four years ago, we got it wrong as FEMA lost its focus in the vast Homeland Security bureaucracy. We need to listen to each other this time and to the consensus of independent experts. We need to deal with the long term and to find an appropriate Federal role. We need to use the forces of nature to protect against the power of nature. We must assure that each step along the way that we take as a Congress leaves our communities more liveable and our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

### IN MEMORY OF CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers are with the Rehnquist family and our Nation. As we celebrate the life of Chief Justice William Rehnquist today, we mourn the loss of a true leader who made the most of his unique opportunity to help the American people. He was a skilled judge and a brilliant man who devoted over a third of his life to ensuring that our highest Court fairly upheld our laws.

From fighting excessive Federal laws as an Associate Justice to battling cancer as Chief Justice, Rehnquist embodied determination and conviction throughout his tenure. Often the lone vote on an issue, he remained true to his conservative beliefs and worked tirelessly to ensure that justice was fairly delivered, and efficiently. Because of his monumental impact on our legal system, he earned a valuable place in our Nation’s history.

As his family and friends gather today, I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude for the life and work of Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

### HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE IMPACT ON LATINOS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, last week the world witnessed the devastating impact of one of the greatest calamities the United States has ever faced. Hurricane Katrina left hundreds of thousands of people without their livelihood and homes and many more without a sense of hope and esperanza.

As shelters across the United States open their arms to evacuees, we must remember all the vulnerable communities which are suffering tremendously in the wake of this natural disaster, including the immigrant population that resides in the embattled areas of the Nation.

More than 150,000 Hondurans, 100,000 Mexicans, and a host of other individuals who live in that particular area, these are immigrants and their families who have contributed significantly to the social and economic fabric of the gulf coast, working in casinos, on farms, in hotels, construction sites, and also in janitorial services. I feel strongly that these immigrants and their families cannot be forgotten in this crisis.

Just as we embrace all the victims of disaster, I hope and I know that the Federal Government will do the same without regard to race, ethnicity, and country of origin. Let us not forget that these individuals contribute every single day to our Nation.

### EDWARD M. REUTINGER

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American, Edward M. Reutinger. Edward Reutinger passed away on August 25, 2005, from a stroke at the age of 58. He was a Green Township trustee in Ross County, Ohio, for 12 years and planned on renewing his public service to Ohio this November by running for trustee again.

Edward Reutinger was a devoted family man and a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. He and his wife were set to celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Reutinger represents some of the best that Ohio and America have to offer. I want to remember him for his upstanding citizenship and for the love he had for his township and his country. May God rest his soul.

### HURRICANE KATRINA AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have been through some of the worst hurricanes in the last quarter of a century. They were experiences I never want to go through again, but none comes close to the devastation especially in the lives of the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I would have thought that there would have been some institutional history and expertise at FEMA that would have dictated a more appropriate preparation and immediate lifesaving response. Obviously, I was wrong and lives were lost.

What I have not been wrong about is what my CBC colleagues and I have been telling this body over and over again for a long time, that African Americans are left out and left behind in just about every facet of American life. Now the entire country and the whole world has seen it in its most stark and tragic reality.

If nothing else comes out of the devastation we have witnessed over the past week, it should be that we forge the will and determination and the leadership of this Nation to close the gaps; to eliminate the disparities; and, finally, after all of these centuries, ensure fairness, equality, and justice for all and that all Americans be finally embraced into the fullness of the promise that is America.

### THE BEST OF HUMAN NATURE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I had the opportunity to go to Baton Rouge not as a Member of Congress but as a physician and to work in the River Center where the evacuees, over 5,000, so many of them were there, and to help provide basic health care needs.